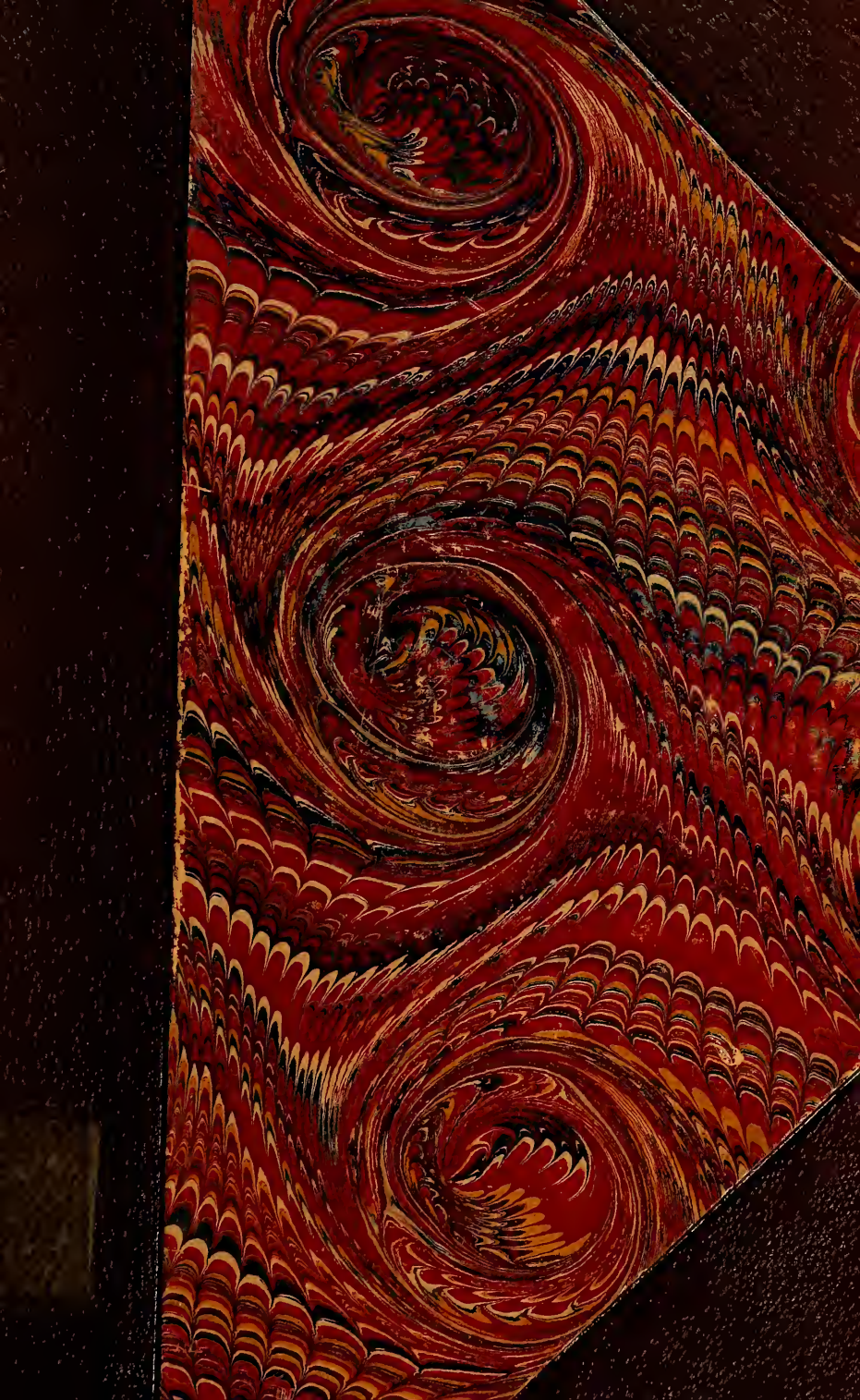




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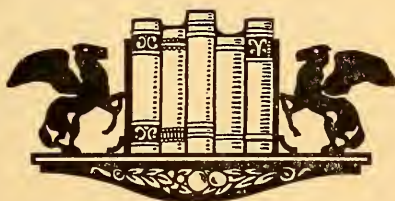
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The Blind.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 15.

JULY 20TH, 1901.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 21st, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

Mr. Tate, a member of the Committee of the Institution for the Blind at Bradford, has contributed to this number an interesting article in regard to the need of holding a conference about the Blind, to which reference was made in paragraph 33 of the last number.

As it is now more than seven years since the last conference was held, and as there are many points of great importance for discussion and consideration, there is apparently a consensus of opinion that it is desirable and advisable to hold a conference next year, it being too late to organise one properly this year.

The Editor will be pleased to hear at the earliest convenience the opinions of those interested in the Blind on this question, and if they consider a conference to be necessary, to know when and where they think it should be held, leaving for future consideration the subjects to be discussed.

It is pleasing to know that this quarterly paper is read aloud regularly to the pupils and workpeople in some of the Institutions for the Blind, because the information it contains is intended just as much for the Blind, in order that they may know what is being done on their behalf, as for sighted people interested in the amelioration of their condition.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We heartily congratulate Mr. Henry F. W. Lane, of Worcester College, Oxford, on obtaining a 2nd class in the Final Honour School of Jurisprudence, and Mr. John Swinnerton, Non-Collegiate, a 3rd class in Theology. These honours reflect great credit on the two graduates and also on the Worcester Blind College, where both of them received their early training. Mr. J. Gordon Smith, of Keble College, has passed Moderations.

2. Mr. William Robertson, of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, has been appointed House Governor at the School for the Blind at Benwell Dene, Newcastle, in the room of the late Mr. J. M. Nicholson.

3. The Board of Education's General Report on Schools for the Blind and Deaf for the two years ended August 31st, 1900, was issued in May, but want of space prevents us from reviewing it in this number.

4. The Junior Branch School at Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common, S.W., in connection with the School for the Indigent Blind, Southwark, was closed on June 29th.

5. There have recently been some substantial legacies to Institutions for the Blind. Mr. J. Finlayson left £9,000 to the Glasgow Asylum, and £4,800 to the Edinburgh Asylum. The residue also, estimated at £15,000, is to be equally divided between the two Asylums. Under the will of the Rev. E. T. Sale, St. George's School for the Blind, Southwark, and the Royal Blind Pension Society get £1,000 each.

6. We are pleased to hear that the new building for the College for the blind sons of gentlemen is proceeding satisfactorily, and that it will be ready for occupation next year. Miss Warrington, the great benefactress of the College, who gave a large donation towards the cost of the new building has, we regret to announce, recently died.

7. The following three articles which appeared in these pages have recently been reprinted as leaflets, viz., "National Education and Training of the Blind," by Dr. F. J. Campbell; "Afterwards," by Mr. H. W. P. Pine; and "Weaving, an Industry for the Blind," by the Hon. Mrs. Campion.

8. In June last year some energetic blind men in Huddersfield decided to open a workshop with the object of providing employment for the blind of both sexes, and we hear that this praiseworthy effort is now about to be assisted and extended by the Yorkshire School for the Blind, the foster-mother of small workshops in Yorkshire. The work-room is at 8, Vance's Yard, Cloth Hall Street, and two blind persons are employed there, whilst three are supplied with work at their own homes.

9. The Gospels of St. Luke and St. John in Greek, extracts from "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis, and Gardiner's "Student's History of England," from 1603 to 1689, (3 vols.) have been transcribed into Braille and recently added to the free Public Library, at Oxford.

10. We heartily congratulate Mr. C. F. Fraser, the well-known Principal of the Institution for the Blind at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on having the degree of LL.D. conferred on him by the Dalhousie University. Mr. Fraser met with an accident at four years of age which impaired his sight, and at sixteen he was totally blind. In 1871 he was offered the position of head teacher, but refused, as he had not finished his course of instruction; but two years afterwards he accepted the offer on its being renewed. In 1871 there were nine pupils in the Institution and now there are 117. Forty per cent. of the graduates have adopted music as a profession. Mr. Fraser has metamorphosed a small struggling school into a public educational Institution, and richly deserves the honour bestowed on him. Since writing the above we have had the pleasure of a call from Dr. Fraser, who, with Mrs. Fraser, is now in England for a few weeks, and is visiting many of the Institutions.

11. The "Channels of Blessing," an evangelical monthly magazine, stereotyped in Braille, calls for more than ordinary remark, because the two editors are both of them blind as well as deaf, "who, amidst darkness have seen with the inward eye, and amidst silence have heard with the inward ear." It was started with ten pages in manuscript form in January, 1898, and the stereotyping began in October, 1899. The present circulation is 200 copies a month. The magazine costs 4d. each copy including postage, and can be obtained from Mr. Edwin Norris, 21, St. Peter's Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea. The object of the magazine is the extension of religious literature among the Blind. It contains expositions on the Psalms, written expressly for the magazine by a blind Clergyman. In October the magazine will be issued in "interpointed" Braille, and the price will be 4½d. each copy.

12. Attention is drawn in this number, by a letter from Miss Samuel, to a "Braille Music Lending Library," which has been formed by Miss I. C. Western, Ravensbourne, Shortlands, Kent, who has been writing and teaching Braille since 1886, and has devoted herself almost entirely to Braille music since 1893. The rules and arrangements for providing music in Braille and a catalogue (price 6d.) can be obtained on application to Miss Western. Pieces of music can be transcribed at 4d. per large sheet, 2½d. intermediate, and 2¼d. small, including postage. Miss Western wishes to enlist the help of sighted Braille writers, as she is unable to attend to all the applications made to her, and is willing to teach the art either personally or by correspondence.

13. In No. 13, par. 14, we referred to leaflets on Prevention of Blindness having been printed in Yiddish, and endorsed by Dr. Adler. These leaflets (5,000) have now been distributed by the Secretary of the Federation of Synagogues amongst the 28 Synagogues in London, with a request that a copy "should be forwarded to every one of the members of your Synagogue." Such a careful distribution is bound to have good effect and is worthy of emulation. Would that the leaflet in English could

be distributed on some systematic plan through one of the Government Departments, as recommended by the Royal Commissioners!

14. Referring to the article on "Blindness in the Potteries," by Miss Mona Wilson, which appeared in No. 7, and to Miss G. Tuckwell's letter in No. 13, on "Leadless Glaze," the sufferings produced by lead on those earning their livings in the Potteries have been most vividly described by Mr. S. Baring-Gould in his recent interesting novel, "The Frobishers." He will have done good service if his book persuade people to buy the wares made with leadless glaze and thus prevent unnecessary suffering and blindness.

15. One of the Stainsby-Wayne embossed shorthand typewriters can be seen at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. The machine is constructed for the purpose of enabling blind persons to conduct correspondence, and to take down verbatim reports at a high speed. A speed of 140 words a minute has been attained.

16. We are much indebted to Mr. William Wade, of Oakmont, Pennsylvania, for a copy of "The Deaf-Blind, a Monograph," which is printed for private circulation. It gives a list and description of deaf-blind persons in the United States and Canada. It is interesting and well printed and abounds with portraits.

17. A hand-written monthly magazine in Braille, entitled, "Fellowship," is now issued by the Society of "Fellowship of the Blind and Seeing." It is contributed to, and circulated among, the members, free of charge. Besides current literature from periodicals and standard works, space is reserved for original compositions, letters, and enquiries, in order to promote friendly co-operation and interchange of ideas, and to form a bond of union among members in various parts of the world. The Hon. Sec. is Miss F. E. Samuel, 16, Blenheim Mansions, Shroton Street, Marylebone, N.W., to whom all communications should be addressed, with stamped directed envelope for reply.

18. Miss Ellis, of the Bangor Home Teaching Society for the Blind, 313, High Street, Bangor, is anxious to purchase a copy of No. 6 of "The Blind" (April 20th, 1899), which is out of print. Will anyone who can spare a copy, kindly write direct to her, stating price?

19. We wish there were many more small workshops for the blind, like the one at Whitby. It is an object-lesson to all interested in the employment of the blind. Started a few years ago, in order to provide regular work for three blind Whitby basket-makers, it has, from the first, entirely answered the expectations of its founders. Regular work has been found for these men, and good wages have been paid. On the 1st. January, 1900, another blind workman joined the shop, a Whitby youth, who lost his sight whilst working at a small local foundry. Whilst being taught Braille he became stone deaf within a week, and has^e remained so to this day. Wisdom at two entrances, instead of one, was thus quite shut out. The Gardner Trust made a grant towards meeting the expenses of sending him to the Wilberforce School for the Blind at York, in order that he might learn basket-making. It will easily be understood that the difficulties in the way of effective training were very great. The result reflects infinite credit on the York staff from the late Mr. Buckle downwards. In just one month over two years the lad's training was completed, and so good a workman had he become that the York manager in the basket department would have gladly retained his services as an out-mate. He worked all last year in the Whitby shop, and at the end of it he had received in wages exactly £41 19s. 3d. He has quite kept up his weekly average wage during the present year. Credit should also be given to the York Committee for the handsome manner in which they equipped this youth when he finally left their Institution. He was sent home with two suits of good clothes, an overcoat, boots, and underclothing. About £15 worth of tools, willows and other material necessary to his craft were also generously supplied. This is what we call carrying out the "Saxon System," and that in a way which would have delighted

the late Dr. Armitage. How different would have been the fate of scores and hundreds of the blind of England if in the first place they had received the same thorough training in their craft, and in the second had been sent home well clothed, and supplied liberally with everything necessary for making a good start. Whenever more willows, etc. are needed, they are supplied of the best quality at cost price from the Institution. The manager at York also keeps in close touch with these four men, and is ever ready to help them if there is any special need.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Bradford. The annual meeting of the Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind (founded 1861) was held on February 26th. During 1900 the sales in the brush department, where 41 men are employed, amounted to £9,106, and in the basket department, where ten are employed, to £1,426. Mat-weaving is now established, and the sales increased to £200. In the knitting and chair-caning department, where 25 women are employed, the sales amounted to £1,030, which sum exceeds, with one exception, the sales in any previous year. The aggregate amount of sales was £12,908, and the wages paid to blind work-people, including £691 in excess of value of work done, amounted to £4,317. A pension fund has been founded by a gift of £1,000 from Mr. Percy R. Waud, and two of the oldest workers at the Institution have been elected thereon to pensions, and £500 have been raised for a Mrs. Lythall Memorial, which provides one pension—the first annuitant being a blind man, who has been employed at the Institution for 38 years. The John Harrison Fund has disbursed £242 in pensions to 35 blind persons. The negotiations for the purchase of the adjoining property unfortunately fell through, but we understand that renewed efforts are being made to obtain a site for the further extension of the working accommodation of the Institution.

Brighton. The report for 1900, of the Barclay Home for blind and partially blind girls, 23 and 25, Wellington Road (founded 1893), states that the year has been an eventful one, inasmuch as the two above-mentioned houses (freehold properties) have been purchased for £3500, as the future Home for blind girls. The children will be in one house, and the grown-up girls in the other; whilst kitchens, workrooms, &c., occupy a building recently erected, which connects the two houses. After school age every girl is passed into the workroom. Weaving is a speciality in this Institution. There are four looms, and dusters, towels, tea-cloths and coloured linen have been woven most successfully. The sales amounted to nearly £80.

Bristol. The annual meeting of the Association for Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind, 65A, Park Street (founded 1857), was held on March 22nd. The report gives a slight sketch of its history since its foundation, and shows how the industrial branch was started in 1869, and that there are over 200 blind persons visited by three blind teachers. The sales amounted to £779, and the wages paid to the workers, who are all women, £210. Legacies were received amounting to £145. There are over 500 volumes in the Library.

Cardiff. The annual meeting of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, Glossop Road, Newport Road, founded 1865, was held on February 22nd. The Sales during 1900, amounted to £2,060, being £161 more than last year. £543 were paid in wages to the Blind, an increase of £60. There are 22 men employed, (18 at basket making and four at mat making,) and 5 women are engaged in sewing, knitting and chair caning. The loss on the working of the Institute amounted to £243, which is largely accounted for "by the abnormally high price of cane, the staple material of basket making." The Shand Memorial Aid Fund, connected with this Institute, granted £31 5s. od. in annuities.

Carlisle & Cumberland Association for the Blind, 6, Fisher Street, Carlisle, founded 1856. In the report for the year ended November 30th, 1900, which was presented at the annual meeting held on December 20th, it is stated that there

are 232 blind people on the books. Twenty-five are employed in the workshop, and the Sales amounted to £2029, the highest sum yet realized. The loss on trading amounted to £220. There is a house attached to the workshops in which six men without homes of their own are accommodated.

Exeter. The 61st report of the West of England Institution for the instruction and employment of the Blind, St. David's Hill, Exeter, was presented at a meeting held on February 27th. On December 31st there were 22 male, and 14 female pupils, and 16 journeymen. The trade sales, amounting to £827, are higher than any year since 1884. The legacies amounted to £116.

Liverpool. The annual meeting of the Liverpool Workshops and Home Teaching Society for the Out-door Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, was held on March 5th, when the report for 1900 was adopted. The industrial department shows both in the amount of sales (£19,750) and in wages paid to the Blind (£4,205), an increase on all previous years. 122 blind persons (98 males and 24 females) have been employed. The Sick Club, which is managed by the work-people themselves, has paid £59 to its members. Thirteen persons have received aid from the annuity fund, amounting in all to £165. The average on the visitors' register was 247, and 5,067 visits were paid. Type-writing and the Braille shorthand system have been introduced, and this part of the work is now being considerably developed.

Liverpool. The 110th annual report of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, and of the Wavertree Branch School for Children, gives an account of the formation of "The Old Pupils' Fund," which is being formed, to enable the Committee to carry out the "Saxon" system. Between £3,000 and £4,000 have already been raised for this excellent object in response to an appeal from Mr. H. Wade Deacon (the President). There were 73 children (38 boys, 35 girls) at the Wavertree School. Type-writing and shorthand have been introduced at Hardman Street School, where there

were 57 men and 33 women pupils. The sale of goods realised £1,152. Legacies were received amounting to £145.

London. (a) Ebury Street Class for the Blind.—This Class consists of 70 blind members, which was founded in 1855, and is held on Tuesday afternoons at 188, Ebury Street, Pimlico, S.W. The eight teachers besides the superintendent are all blind.

(b) North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, N.—The 21st anniversary was celebrated on April 18th. An appeal was made for £800, in order to raise the sustentation fund to £3,000, and about £400 have already been paid or promised. The Homes now consist of six houses and a large hall, all freehold property and free from debt, and held by Trustees in perpetuity for the Blind. There is also a branch seaside Home at Southend-on-Sea, where there is accommodation for twelve inmates. There are 103 in the London Homes. We believe this is by far the largest Home for the Blind in the United Kingdom. There are many smaller ones, the oldest of which was founded in 1805 at Norwich, and the most recent was opened last year at Sheffield.

(c) London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W., founded 1838.—The annual meeting was held on April 27th, when the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided. The 63rd report was presented for the year ended December 31st, 1900, and shows that at the end of the year there were 67 pupils (32 boys, 35 girls) in the school. The receipts from the industrial department have risen to £760 against £534 in 1899. £562 were received in legacies. The five candidates for election to the School were admitted last March without the trouble and expense of an election, in recognition of H.M. King Edward VII. having graciously consented to become Patron of the Society.

(d) Royal Blind Pension Society, 237, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., founded 1863.—The report for the year ended March 31st last, states that £7,467 have been paid during the year to 1,070 pensioners, in monthly instalments, thus exceeding

by more than £100 the amount disbursed in any previous year. One legacy only of £100 was received. The pensions are paid through 800 honorary almoners.

(e) Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind, 1, London Road, Southwark, S.E., founded 1858.—The report for the year ended December 31st, 1900, shows that a pension of £6 a year has been paid to sixty blind people, and states that there is urgent need of more pensions for the Blind, which should be applied only “for the benefit of the aged and incapable, or for those plunged into heavy misfortunes (as in the case of persons whose sight has been destroyed by accidents) or as an aid to industry or self-help, supplementing and not superseding industrial effort.”

(f) Workshop for the Blind of Kent, London Street, Greenwich, founded 1877.—The report for 1900 states that the sale of goods amounted to £1,290, being £125 more than any previous year. A legacy of £500 was received. £611 were paid to workmen. Only men resident in the county of Kent are admitted to this workshop. Pupils are admitted between 15 and 40 years of age.

Norwich. The report for 1900 of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, established in 1805, explains the reason for closing the children's department, referred to in paragraph 11 of our last number. The Board of Education “required the Committee to erect a new building for a schoolroom, and to provide separate departments for boys and girls, and still further to make provision for the separation of the sexes out of school-hours, and to keep those under 16 years of age from associating with the adult inmates. The cost of carrying out these demands was estimated at some £5,000, besides involving a considerable increase in annual expenditure.” The Institution will now revert to its former position as a Technical School and as an Asylum for the Aged. There were 29 in the Elementary, and 22 in the Technical Schools, 13 in the Asylum, and 8 journeymen, making a total of 72. The sales amounted to £542, and £1,077 were received in legacies.

Sheffield. The report of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind for 1900, was read at the 22nd Annual Meeting, held on March 18th. The Institution consists of: (a) The School in Manchester Road, certified for 35 boys and 35 girls. Last year the boys' side of the house was full, and there were 31 girls. (b) The Outdoor Workshops and Retail Shop. The employes were paid £667 in wages, to which was added £88 in bonuses. The sales show a decrease of £69 compared with the sales in 1899, and the manufactory shows a loss of £28. A legacy of £500 was received. (c) The Home Mission for assisting and visiting the necessitous blind; 1,193 visits have been paid, exclusive of those to Workhouses. (d) Overend Cottages in Selbourne Road, Crosspool, opened September 29th, 1900, and erected at a cost of £1,915. Five of the six tenements have been allotted by the Committee, who pay all rates, taxes, charges for gas and water, &c., and make a small weekly allowance to each tenant.

Wolverhampton. The annual meeting of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, 17, Victoria Street, was held on May 10th, when the 26th annual report was presented for the year 1900. There are 95 blind persons in the district who are visited by a blind teacher, and there are 17 men and 3 women employed at the workshop. The receipts from sales amounted to £1,563, and £400 were paid in wages to the blind workpeople. An endowment fund of nearly £500 has been founded out of legacies, and also a fund of £400 for assisting the sick and aged. The purchase of the adjoining property and the cost of new buildings amounted to £2,143, of which the whole sum has been raised with the exception of £256.

PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

In the last issue of "The Blind," reference is made to "a general feeling that the time has nearly arrived when another Conference on matters connected with the Blind should be held in England."

Although the period which has elapsed since the Conference at Birmingham in 1894 has witnessed a remarkable increase in the zeal and earnestness of those engaged in promoting the welfare of the Blind, and much thought and care has been bestowed upon the creation of new activities in their behalf, it is eminently desirable that a National Conference of those engaged in the management and control of Schools for the Blind, Workshops, Institutions, &c., should be held at an early date, for the investigation and discussion of several subjects of pressing moment, and for the consolidation of public opinion upon measures for the further amelioration of the Blind.

The operation of the Elementary Education Act of 1893, supported by the solicitude and enthusiasm of many School authorities throughout the country, has placed the education of blind children upon an assured basis, which offers great promise for the future, and encourages the hope that in the course of the next few years, educational methods, already much more efficient than formerly, will still further improve, and yield yet higher results in regard to the intelligence, capacity and resourcefulness of the young blind.

The great advance which has thus been accomplished, renders it the more desirable and necessary that further progress should be seriously attempted in the matter of "Secondary and Technical Education," with the view of obtaining some practical embodiment of the following, as yet unfulfilled, recommendations of the report of the Royal Commission on the Blind, &c., 1889—

"That from 16 to 21 the School Authority should have the power and duty to give to all the necessitous Blind a liberal grant to maintain themselves whilst learning a trade."

"That the Adult Blind and those who become blind from 21 to 50 should equally receive help from the School Authority to learn a trade—in the same way as if they were under 21."

It may be remembered that a short Conference upon the subject of these recommendations, took place in London in December 1896, under the auspices of the British and Foreign Association for the Blind; and, that subsequently a deputation,

headed by the Right Hon. the late Lord Playfair, the Right Hon. the late A. J. Mundella, M.P., and Dr. Campbell (Members of the Royal Commission), waited upon His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, in order to urge upon the Education Department the desirability of further legislation in the interests of the Blind.

His Grace whilst expressing much personal sympathy with the objects sought, unfortunately took up the position that other agencies might be relied upon to supply the necessary relief, and in particular, that the powers already conferred upon "Boards of Guardians" were adequate to the fulfilment of such duties in any cases which might be brought before them.

It is greatly to be regretted that His Grace should have adopted this attitude, since the recommendations of the Royal Commission were made with full knowledge of the powers referred to, as will be seen from par. 241, of the Report, which is as follows:—

"We are aware that the guardians are empowered to send such cases to an institution, even though the parent be not a pauper in receipt of relief, but we have nevertheless had abundant testimony of the very natural disinclination on the part of poor parents to apply to the guardians in such a matter for aid, and also of the reluctance of some boards of guardians to afford such aid. There appears to be a general consensus of opinion in favour of vesting the power of making the grant in the hands of the School authority rather than leaving it in the hands of the poor law administration, with whom it would assume the form of a charitable concession rather than an educational duty."

The application of the compulsory clauses of the Elementary Education Act, subsequently confirmed the above in a remarkable way, and demonstrated not only the immense superiority for administrative purposes, of a School authority, but also the total inadequacy of the provisions previously made to reach numbers of blind children all over the country.

There is reason to believe that a similar state of things still exists with regard to many of those above the age of 16, and

that frequently, no suitable opportunities are afforded them for acquiring the knowledge and skill in handicrafts which would fit them to become efficient workers, capable of earning their own livelihood. Though many Guardians are sincerely solicitous to help the blind and to fulfil their duty towards such as are brought under their notice, it cannot be said to be incumbent upon the Guardians to search out cases themselves, and it follows that in places where there is no Home-teaching or other agency to care for the Blind, many are liable to suffer neglect and to drift into helplessness and despair.

In this connection it is to be noted that the members of the Royal Commission further recommended,

"That the technical instruction in industrial handicrafts should be placed under the Education Department; an efficient inspection of industrial work, by a Government inspector, would tend to raise the standard of work and to produce good instead of indifferent workmen, as is too often the case at present."

Another subject closely connected with the welfare of the Blind, and of equal importance with the foregoing, is that relating to the care of blind pupils after the period of training is over. In an article entitled "Afterwards," by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, of Nottingham, published in the January number of "The Blind," 1899, this subject is most ably and sympathetically treated.

Mr. Pine insists that "it is the bounden duty of the managers of every Institution to awake to this matter and to recognise their responsibility for the care of the pupils whom they have trained."

The advantages of the "Saxon system" are well known to those who have given thought to the question, and a few Institutions have attempted, in a small way, to adapt the system to the needs of their pupils.

If the work is to be done effectively, however, much more than this will be required, and measures of a national character, binding upon all, and subject to Government control, can alone cope with the enormous difficulties which are involved. It is,

therefore, fully time that some concerted action should be set on foot to render the advantages of the "Saxon system," something more than a pious opinion, and it should not be beyond the powers of a Conference to initiate measures which shall be reasonable, effective, and acceptable to the public mind.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission under this head were as follows :—

"We think that the adoption of the "Saxon system" is of the utmost importance to the blind of this Country, in the four following respects :—

1. That a register be kept of all pupils leaving the Institution.
2. That they should be assisted in carrying on a trade, should they wish to set up for themselves.
3. That the Institutions should endeavour to provide funds to supplement the workmen's earnings, grant loans, or afford him assistance in case of illness.
4. An endeavour should be made to interest some influential local agency, with which the Institution could correspond on behalf of the Blind."

Several other matters might be named in connection with the welfare of the Blind, which require additional study and research, as "the care of the aged and indigent Blind," "the administration of pensions," the "Census returns," so far as they affect the Blind, the question of the "Marriage of Blind persons," upon which it is desirable that some helpful and authoritative information should be obtained, "Mental and physical ailments of the Blind," &c., &c.

The foregoing will suffice to support the opinion that a Conference is eminently desirable, and if I might venture to make a suggestion thereon, it is that the Committee of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind should kindly undertake the steps necessary to inaugurate the movement.

WILLIAM H. TATE.

Bradford Institution for the Blind.

June 24th, 1901.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Blind."

NANTWICH,

May 28th, 1901.

Dear Sir,

I was much interested in Mr. Illingworth's paper "Blind teachers for the blind," which appeared in your impression for April 20th, particularly the part which referred to music. Within the last two years I have visited three of the principal provincial Institutions for the blind, and at each found the music was under the direction of a sighted teacher. In one instance the Professor had just been appointed. He went fresh from his Mus. Bac. examination, and a position as Assistant at a Cathedral, and doubtless has *many* musical qualifications, but not the special experience required. He is organist and choirmaster at the Institution Church—a sad reflection on the capabilities of those who have been trained there, and a splendid handle for at least 95 per cent. of the Clergy who are under the impression that blind people cannot satisfactorily discharge the duties of Organist and Choirmaster. Without at present discussing whether they are generally speaking correct or not, or whether the blind should often be trained for this work in face of the great advance which has taken place in Church music during the last few years, I may safely say a blind teacher is more competent to train others similarly afflicted for this work than a sighted person could possibly be. He only speaks and acts as a seeing teacher of the seeing, and does not know the special methods used by the blind teacher. What would be thought of a master who professed to teach the Piano or any other instrument who did not know the notation used in the copies, and yet I am of opinion that at some of the Institutions where Braille Musical notation is considered indispensable, the one who is at the head of the musical department does not understand it. I can anticipate the reply to this, but it will not bear examination. Hoping this letter will create interest in the subject in the proper quarters.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

S. CORBETT, Mus. Doc. Cantab F.R.C.O., L.T.C.L.

To the Editor of "The Blind."

1G, BLENHEIM MANSIONS,
SHROTON STREET,
MARYLEBONE, N.W.

June 17th, 1901.

Dear Sir,

I hail with gratitude and delight the news that Miss I. C. Western, of Ravensbourne, Shortlands, Kent, is training a staff, which she hopes to augment, of writers competent to assist her in executing orders for transcribing music into Braille.

Miss Western began, some eight years ago, by copying music as it was wanted for former pupils of the Royal Normal College, and each piece was retained for her library after it had served the purpose of a particular student for whom it had been written.

Ever since, a large number of students and teachers in all parts of the world (including Australia) have been helped by Miss Western in this way.

The "Music Lending Library" now consists of many hundreds of pieces—songs, part-songs, pieces for organ, piano, etc., etc., collected in the manner above indicated.

Miss Western has been more than generous in her readiness to help in times of need. Many can testify to the fact, that for years, this lady has promptly copied out music for those who wrote to her saying they wanted certain work done in a great hurry, and would be glad if she would oblige them as soon as possible. Still, the one brain and one pair of hands could not possibly accomplish what was constantly being required, and besides, we could not continually bring our ever-present needs to one who worked always gratuitously. So at last, many whom she had helped, begged her to start a Braille Music-copying Bureau, for which she might (if she would) train a sighted staff of copyists, who would thoroughly learn the system she has found so entirely satisfactory.

Some of us who have had a good deal of sad experience in the way of bad copying done to order, pointed out the grievous need for good work in this much neglected field, and Miss Western's warm heart yielded to our entreaties.

	s.	d.
Creighton, The Rev. M., M.A. History of Rome, vol. i.	4	3
Doyle, A. Conan, Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, 5 vols.		
(each containing 2 complete stories) at 3/6 ..	17	6
Euclid vol. iii. (containing Books 2 and 3),	2	8
Hope Anthony, Rupert of Hentzau, 3. (interpointed) ..	3	0
" " " 4. " (completion)	2	6
Jerome, Jerome K., Three Men on the Bummel, vol. i.	3	0
" " " " vol. ii.	4	0
Milton John, Paradise Regained, books 1.2.3. and 4. in		
1 vol.	2	6
Shelley, Percy B. Selections from the Poems of		
(interpointed)	3	0
" " Prometheus Unbound	3	6
Randegger Albert, Singing (Novello's Music Primers)		
vol. i.	4	0
" " " (completion) vol. ii.	4	0
Selections from Elijah, No. 1	0	6
" " " No. 2, 14, 15 and 16 .. each	0	4
" " " No. 3, 4 and 18, "	0	3
" " " No. 6, 7 and 11, "	0	9

In Braille at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West
Craigmillar, Edinburgh :—

"Hora Jucunda," vol. xxxiv. April to June, 1901		
(interpointed)	4	6
Nelson's "Royal Osborne" Geographical Reader, Book V.,		
vol. ii. (interpointed)	4	6
Exercises on Embossed Shorthand by Mr. Maurice Myers,		
Birmingham (interpointed) limp cloth, post free ..	1	3



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